

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**



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CONTACT: DARIN THACKER  
(202) 225-3076

## **Herger Remains Very Upbeat after Report Indicating Average Unemployment Benefits Claims are Declining**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) reports that recent economic data demonstrates that job growth and the economy remain strong. Today, the Department of Labor reported that 333,000 individuals filed first-time unemployment benefits claims last week. The average weekly claims in 2005 is 328,000, significantly lower than the average in 2004 of 343,000, which signifies a growing job market. This news comes shortly after the release of the May jobs report, which represented the 24th consecutive month of job growth, and indicated that the unemployment rate fell to 5.1%.

"These positive reports indicate that our economy is producing jobs at a consistent and significant pace," Herger said. "They make clear that the tremendous work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit of the American people, fostered by pro-growth policies implemented by Congress and President Bush, have lifted our nation out of the economic instability caused by recession, corporate scandals, and the September 11th terrorist attacks."

Nearly 1 million new jobs have been created in 2005, and over 3.5 million have been created since May 2003. Meanwhile, California's unemployment rate has fallen by 1% over the past year, from 6.4% in April 2004, to 5.4% today.

"Our economy has demonstrated tremendous resiliency, and continues to strengthen and grow," Herger continued. "Still, I will not be satisfied until every American looking for a job is able to find one. I will continue to support policies that foster economic vitality and job growth."

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